

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1121
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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: NEW 25,000 INDOCHINA PAROLE PROGRAM

1. HONG KONG GOVT (HKG) IS CONCERNED ABOUT LARGE NUMBER OF RECENT BOAT ARRIVALS (796 BETWEEN PERIOD JUNE 1 - 27) AND TOTAL PRESENT BOAT REFUGEE POPULATION OF 1094. IMMIGRATION DEPT HAS ASKED US NUMBER OCCASIONS WHEN NEW PROGRAM WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AND IF THERE IS ANY WAY THAT U.S. PROCESSING CAN BE EXPEDITED. WE HAVE REPLIED THAT WE ARE WAITING FOR IMPLEMENTATION CABLE WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE RECEIVED SHORTLY.

2. IN FACT, PROCESSING OF BOAT REFUGEE ARRIVALS HAS BEEN SLOWED BY TRANSFER OF UNHCR PROCESSING FROM ICEM HONG KONG TO SUB-ROSA UNHCR OFFICE. CARPENTER SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED LAST WEEK TO INITIATE THAT OFFICE, BUT IMMIGRATION DEPT WAS TOLD WHEN IT ASKED SAMPATKUMAR ABOUT CARPENTER'S WHEREABOUTS THAT HE WILL NOW ARRIVE END THIS WEEK. LOCAL PERSON WAS HIRED AND AND STARTED ON DUTY, BUT HAS DONE LITTLE SINCE HE HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM UNHCR. THERE ARE NOW 575 REFUGEES HERE (INCLUDING 31 ARRIVALS YESTERDAY) FOR WHOM UNHCR BIO FORMS HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED.

3. IN ORDER SHOW SOME SEMBLANCE OF MOVEMENT, WE HAVE PRESENTED
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FORMS ON 275 REFUGEES TO INS HONG KONG FOR INTERVIEW. AT SAME TIME, WE COMPLETED ACVA FORMS AND SENT THEM ALONG WITH UNHCR FORMS TO ACVA TO INITIATE SPONSORSHIP SEARCH. ACVA ES LOCATED SPONSORS FOR 26 CASES (43 PERSONS) WHO HAVE NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY INS HONG KONG DUE TO LACK OF NUMBERS.

4. REQUEST DEPT ADVISE US IF WE SHOULD INFORM ACVA ABOUT THESE 26 CASES AND IF WE SHOULD REQUEST ACVA TO CEASE SPONSORSHIP SEARCH ON OTHER CASES SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE OF INS INTERVIEW.

5. WE HOPE THAT WHEN PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED INS HONG KONG WILL BE ABLE TO USE CONDITIONAL ENTRY NUMBERS FOR SOME CASES. IF HONG KONG ALLOTMENT UNDER NEW PROGRAM IS RELATIVELY SMALL AND IF CONDITIONAL ENTRY NUMBERS CANNOT BE USED, HKG WILL BE MOST CONCERNED SINCE IT WILL MEAN BUILD UP OF REFUGEE BOAT CASES HERE. CARPENTER WILL BE REQUESTED BY HKG TO PRESS INTERNATIONALIZATION, BUT NO ONE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT HE WILL BE ABLE ACHIEVE MUCH IN THAT REGARD.

6. UNLESS SAMPATKUMAR WAS ABLE OBTAIN NEW FACILITIES ON CHEAPER BASIS THAN PREVIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS, PRESENT BOAT REFUGEE POPULATION HERE WILL COST UNHCR APPROXIMATELY \$250,000 MONTHLY FOR CARE AND MAINTENANCE.
SHOESMITH

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